



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 17, 2004

S. 50

Tsunami Preparedness Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on March 17, 2005*

SUMMARY

S. 50 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish and implement new programs to research, detect, monitor, and mitigate the effects of tsunamis in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. The bill would direct the agency to upgrade and improve existing systems and data management efforts and would authorize it to provide technical and financial aid to those affected by tsunamis, including local and international entities. For those purposes, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$40 million for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2012, including \$8 million annually for pilot projects to assess the vulnerability of coastal areas of the United States.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 50 would cost a total of \$124 million over the 2006-2010 period, assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized. We estimate that about \$156 million would be spent after 2010, including \$80 million authorized to be appropriated for 2011 and 2012. Enacting S. 50 could affect direct spending, but CBO estimates any offsetting receipts and subsequent spending would not exceed \$500,000 in any year. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

S. 50 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Coastal states and local communities would benefit from the programs and grants authorized in this bill. Any costs they face to participate in those programs would be incurred voluntarily.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 50 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	40	40	40	40	40
Estimated Outlays	8	16	20	40	40

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 50 will be enacted by the beginning of 2006 and that the entire amounts authorized will be appropriated for each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns of similar scientific programs. Some of the costs of carrying out a global tsunami warning and mitigation program may be offset by reimbursements from other countries participating in the program, but CBO estimates that such reimbursements would be less than \$500,000 annually.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 50 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Coastal states and local communities would benefit from the programs and grants authorized in this bill. Any costs they face to participate in those programs would be incurred voluntarily.

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